

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed January 13, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 1-130 were cited as being subject to a restriction requirement. Reexamination and reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 53-54, 59, 61-63, and 114 have been amended by this response. Claims 65-92 and 119-130 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 131-153 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-64, 93-118, and 131-153 remain at issue in the patent application. Of those remaining at issue, claims 1, 24, 34, 46, 54, 93, 97, 102, 105, 111, 131, and 144 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

I) RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-130 were restricted into three groups of claims as the claimed inventions were distinct from each other.

The three groups of claims are as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-64 and 93-118, drawn to a fiber optic module, classified in class 385, subclass 92;

Group II: Claims 65-92, drawn to a retention mechanism, classified in class 385, subclass 76; and

Group III: Claims 119-130, drawn to a cage, classified in class 385, subclass 92.

Applicant hereby elects to go forward with claims 1-64 and 93-118 of Group I drawn to a fiber optic module, classified in class 385, subclass 92, without traverse.

Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claims 65-92 of Group I and claims 119-130 of Group II without prejudice in order to comply with the restriction requirement.

II) CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicant has amended claims 53-54, 59, 61-63, and 114.

Claim 53 has been amended to clarify the respective coupling of ground and power pins to ground and power sockets.

Claims 54 and 59 have been amended to correct "module" to --signal-- in the phrase "plurality of signal contacts" to be consistent.

Claims 61 has been amended to clarify the electrical connections being made by the respective contacts for hot pluggability.

Claims 62-63 have been amended to correct the preamble introduction of the claim limitations.

Claim 114 has been amended to correct a typographical error in its dependency by replacing "11" with --111--.

These amendments to claims 53-54, 59, 61-63, and 114 are not made for reasons related to patentability.

III) NEW CLAIMS

Applicant has added new claims 131-153 corresponding to Group I claims.

Of these new claims, claims 131 and 144 are new independent claims.

Claims 132-143 depend indirectly from independent claim 131.

Claims 145-153 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 144.

IV) SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Applicant has amended the specification to correct typographical errors.

The paragraph beginning on page 14, line 12 was amended by adding a space between "101B" and "are" that currently reads "101Bare".

The paragraph beginning on page 23, line 10 was amended by correcting an incorrect reference number "1234" to the correct reference number --124--.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments to the specification.


CONCLUSION

A first examination as to the merits of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Susan McFarlane
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